

EPA & Community Involvement for Portland Harbor

Pollution at Portland Harbor

Portland Harbor is the 11-mile stretch of the lower Willamette River from the Broadway Bridge in downtown Portland to Sauvie Island. People work and live along the river, and use it for fishing, boating and swimming. The river also has cultural and ceremonial significance for some communities. More than a century of industrial use has left areas of Portland Harbor polluted with hazardous substances that were released into the river and on land surrounding the water. Because of the potential risk to people and the environment from the pollution, in 2000 the EPA named Portland Harbor a Superfund site.

Public Awareness Workshop: Introduction to Superfund & Portland Harbor

Please attend EPA's **Portland Harbor 101 Workshop** – it is free and open to the public.

When: **Saturday, March 28**

Where: Check our website in late March for location and time

Length: 1.5 to 2 hours

Format: presentation, demonstrations and exercises

EPA will provide Certificates of Participation for all attendees

Light refreshments will be provided



Portland Harbor study area

This interactive workshop will answer the following questions:

- What is Superfund and how did it begin?
- What happens when a polluted site is discovered?
- How does EPA determine how much pollution is at Portland Harbor?
- How does EPA determine how to clean up the pollution at Portland Harbor?
- Who pays?
- Which other agencies/Tribal governments are involved?
- How can the community get involved?

Participants will role-play as EPA engineers/scientists and community involvement coordinators to decide:

- What to look for when inspecting the River for pollution,
- Who to talk with to better understand the history of pollution at the River,
- What would be important to sample and test,
- What would be the best way to clean-up the River and the pros/cons about the clean-up options
- How would you help the community understand and participate in the clean-up process?
- How would you advertise updates & meetings to make sure many voices are heard?
- What role does the community play?

How can you learn more and get involved?

The EPA is reviewing options to reduce pollution in the river sediments and along the shoreline at Portland Harbor. We invite you to come to community meetings and hear more about these options:

When: **March 11, April 8, and May 13** (second Wednesdays in March, April, and May) at 6 PM

Where: Portland BES Water Pollution Control Lab, 6543 N. Burlington Ave.

Why shouldn't you eat fish that live in Portland Harbor?

People come in contact with pollution from Portland Harbor through eating fish that live in the Harbor. Fish like bass, carp and catfish carry high levels of certain toxic chemicals. Young children, nursing infants and babies in the womb are the most sensitive to the effects of these chemicals. For fish advisory information, call 877- 290-6767 or visit www.healthoregon.org/fishadv



Fish advisory sign, Cathedral Park

Next steps

EPA expects to complete a proposed plan for cleaning up the polluted sediment of Portland Harbor in 2016. The public is encouraged to read and comment on the plan when it is released. You can find more information about EPA's work at Portland Harbor, and sign up for email notifications about opportunities to be involved on our web site.

History of the Portland Harbor

Over the years, some areas of the river have been dredged to make the river bottom deeper. In other areas the river has been filled to create land. More than a century of industrial use, including ship repair and maintenance, pesticide manufacturing, wood treating, bulk petroleum storage, manufactured gas, secondary lead smelters, and others, have left areas of Portland Harbor polluted with hazardous substances that were released into the river and on land surrounding the water.



View of the Willamette River

For More Information ...

Learn more and sign up for email updates on EPA's Portland Harbor Web page at www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor or call Alanna Conley at 503-326-6831